

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0092 / 127334.4**PATENT**

Please amend claim 173, without prejudice, as follows:

173. (Once Amended) A method for a license provider to provide a digital license for rendering a piece of digital content comprising:

- receiving a request for the license from a license requestor having a public key;
- checking the license request for validity;
- negotiating terms and conditions for the requested license with the license requestor;
- generating the requested license including a decryption key (KD) for decrypting the digital content, such decryption key (KD) being encrypted with the public key of the license requestor; and
- issuing the generated license to the license requestor.

REMARKS

Claims 106-279 are pending in the present application, and stand rejected. Claim 173 has been amended to include language from claim 186. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment.

The present Amendment is submitted in view of several telephone conferences between the Examiner and the undersigned on behalf of the Applicants. In the telephone conversations, the Examiner stated that claim 173 would be allowable